

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized (none); Home:* Bob Brewster, John Mahalchak (son). Nancy Shaytar, Natalie Tooch, William Warnak. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka.

➤ **Vigil Lights** *(Last week's donors will be listed next week. Our apologies for any inconvenience.)*

➤ **Thank you to our February donors:** From **Donya Yewisiak** (Altar candles \$25) in memory of father, Fr Vladimir Soroka on his birthday. From **Kristie Mertz** (Incense \$10) for daughter Katarina on her birthday.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens

St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: David #1

Scripture reference: Samuel 16-20

Questions to ask/review:

- Do you think David was afraid when he faced Goliath? Have you ever been afraid?
- How did David deal with his fear? You?
- David proved that you can do many things with God on your side no matter your age! Can you think of some things you can do right now to please God?
- What does the statement that Jonathon and David became "one in spirit" mean? How would David's life have been different without Jonathon's friendship?
- Which of these friendship characteristics do your friends exhibit? What is your own strongest friendship characteristic? Your weakest?
- Are our friends perfect? What happens when we expect them to be perfect?
- What's the greatest risk you've taken for a friend? Your friend for you? How does God work through our friendships?
- How do Saul's actions show what happens when hatred enters our lives?

Suggested Activities at home:

- Read or sing Psalms written by David from the book of Psalms.
- Role play (safely!) the battle between the Israelites and Philistines featuring David and Goliath.

Prayer: Lord, give us victory over giants, as You did David.

every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness



Whether you're searching for a new church home or just visiting, we're glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to use the QR Code as your offering today. Please join us downstairs following the service. We want to get to know you! God bless you!



This Week

Sunday, February 2

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy / Church School

Tuesday, February 4

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

Thursday, February 6

9:00 am Daily Matins

9:30 am to 12:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm Men's Night

Saturday, February 8

3:30 pm Exploring Orthodoxy

4:30 pm Confessions

5:00 pm Parish Festal Vigil

Sunday, February 9

10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Church School

To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*
Rdr James Wargo and Danielle Bartko, Choir Dirs

Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

February 2, 2025

Announcements

➤ Calling all artists, actors, comedians, and musicians! **The St. Nicholas Talent Show** will take place on Saturday, February 22 after vespers. Please join your fellow parishioners for a night of fun and fellowship. If you are interested in performing, please contact Fred Zelesnik at 412-538-8052 or fred1zelesnik@yahoo.com.

➤ **Dome Fundraiser!** With many thanks to Mike Puhac, he has made 40 dozen (!) pierogi for sale as a dome fundraiser. You can purchase them today. Please see Kristie Mertz or Matushka Joni Soroka to get yours today.

➤ **IOCC fundraiser** on Thursday, February 27 • 6-9 pm at Allusion Brewing Company, McCandless, PA 15101. Join us for an evening with nice fellowship, meticulously crafted drafts, and good food. You'll learn about IOCC's work around the world and its latest emergency relief interventions. 20% of food & beverage proceeds will benefit IOCC. Go to ioccc.org/pittsburgh for more information.

Lent and Pascha 2025

Sunday, February 9 – Publican and Pharisee

Sunday, February 23 – Meatfare Sunday

Sunday, March 2 – Cheesefare Sunday

Monday, March 3 – First Day of Great Lent

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 20 – Holy Pascha

Sunday, June 8 – Pentecost

Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
 To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
 For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping
 into joy,
 and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ
 God,
 to proclaim that Thou art risen,//
 granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
 From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ
 our God,
 enlightening those who sat in darkness.
 Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
 thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of
 our souls,//
 Who grants us the Resurrection!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men
captive,
 for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its
powers.
 Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:
 “The Savior has come to those in faith;//
 enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 1 Kontakion (Feast)

By Thy Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s
 womb
 and didst bless Simeon’s hands, ^O Christ God.
 Now Thou hast come and saved us through love.
 Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,//
 O only Lover of Man!

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

The Lord shall give strength to His people. / The
 Lord shall bless His people with peace. (Ps. 28:11)

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit
 hath rejoiced in God my Savior. (Lk. 1:46-47)

Epistle 1 Timothy 4:9-15 (Sunday)

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all
 acceptance. For to this end we both labor and
 suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God,
 who is the Savior of all men, especially of those
 who believe. These things command and teach.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example
 to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in
 spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention
 to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not
 neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to
 you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of
 the eldership. Meditate on these things; give
 yourself entirely to them, that your progress may
 be evident to all.

Epistle Hebrews 7:7-17 (Feast)

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed
 by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but
 there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed
 that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid
 tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was
 still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek
 met him.

Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical
 priesthood (for under it the people received the
 law), what further need was there that another
 priest should rise according to the order of
 Melchizedek, and not be called according to the
 order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed,
 of necessity there is also a change of the law. For
 He of whom these things are spoken belongs to
 another tribe, from which no man has officiated at
 the altar.

For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of
 which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning
 priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the
 likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another
 priest who has come, not according to the law of a
 fleshly commandment, but according to the power
 of an endless life. For He testifies:

“You are a priest forever
 According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Gospel Luke 19:1-10 (Sunday)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.
 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus
 who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And
 he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not
 because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.
 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore
 tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.
 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up
 and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make
 haste and come down, for today I must stay at your
 house.” So he made haste and came down, and
 received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they
 all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest
 with a man who is a sinner.”

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look,
 Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I
 have taken anything from anyone by false
 accusation, I restore fourfold.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come
 to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;
 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save
 that which was lost.”

Gospel Luke 2:22-40 (Feast)

Now when the days of her purification according
 to the law of Moses were completed, they brought
 Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it
 is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who
 opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”),
 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in
 the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two
 young pigeons.”

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose
 name was Simeon, and this man was just and
 devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and
 the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been
 revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would
 not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.
 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when
 the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for
 Him according to the custom of the law, he took
 Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in
 peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have
 seen Your salvation Which You have prepared
 before the face of all peoples, A light to bring
 revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your
 people Israel.”

And Joseph and His mother marveled at those
 things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon
 blessed them, and said to Mary His mother,
 “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and
 rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will
 be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce
 through your own soul also), that the thoughts of
 many hearts may be revealed.”

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the
 daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was
 of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven
 years from her virginity; and this woman was a
 widow of about eighty-four years, who did not
 depart from the temple, but served God with
 fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in
 that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke
 of Him to all those who looked for redemption in
 Jerusalem.

So when they had performed all things according
 to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to
 their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and
 became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and
 the grace of God was upon Him.

Tone 3 Hymn to the Theotokos (Feast)

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect,
 preserve, and save those who hope in thee!
 In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the
 faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that
 opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore we
 magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has
 no beginning, the Son firstborn of a Mother who
 had not known man.

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in
 the highest! (Ps. 148:1) I will receive the cup of
 salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. (Ps.
 115:4) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!